SUMMARY OF THE SHOOTING INCIDENT AT JOKELA HIGH SCHOOL ON 7 NOVEMBER 2007

1. EMERGENCY CALL ON SHOOTING AT JOKELA HIGH SCHOOL

The Emergency Response Centre of Itä- and Keski-Uusimaa received the first call on the shooting at Jokela High School on 7 November 2007 at 11:34. The call was made by a pupil of the school, who said she had found an unconscious boy with a bleeding injury in his head on the corridor. During the phone call several shots were heard and the call was finished with the exclamation that there were two persons lying on the floor.

Immediately after the first call, dozens of other emergency calls were made to the Emergency Response Centre, for example one by a teacher at 11:46 mentioning that the gunman was Pekka Auvinen.

The order and the time of killing the victims were established on the basis of the shots heard on the calls, recorded by the Emergency Response Centre, and the witness statements.

2. POLICE AND FIRST AID STAFF TO THE SCENE; FIRST MEASURES

The Emergency Response Centre called the first ambulance at 11:44. As several people had called the Emergency Response Centre and given an account on the situation, more rescue staff was called to the scene.

The Emergency Response Centre called the Keski-Uusimaa Police Department at 11:45 and the first Police patrol arrived in front of the school at 11.55. By then, two ambulances had already arrived.

Both the police patrol and the ambulance staff saw dozens of pupils coming towards them in Jyväkuja (Street) and other pupils and school staff in shock pushing themselves out of the school doors. They were directed away from the building and further to the Jokela Fire Station and the Church Hall, where later an evacuation centre was established.

The ambulances and the police patrol drove up to the main doors, through which at 12:04 a young man came out firing twice towards the police officers. After the shots he went back into the school building.

For security reasons, the rescue staff could not start the first aid measures immediately. There was no idea of the number and location of the wounded in the building, either.

The police continued to check the building classroom by classroom with the intention to evacuate safely all the dozens of pupils and teachers still inside the building. The police also wanted to find the wounded and arrange secure conditions for the first aid staff to work. At the same time the police had to look for all the possible perpetrators and try to prevent further damage. The SWAT (Karhu) team of the Helsinki Police Department continued this task as they arrived at 12.30.

At 01:54 p.m. the police found an unconscious man in the toilet on the ground floor with a .22 calibre handgun beside him. He had shot himself in the head. He was later recognised to be Pekka-Eric Auvinen. Auvinen died from his injuries at Töölö Hospital the same night at 10:14.

The police continued to check the school premises for several hours. Most spaces were locked. The school comprises five parts, each part having 1 to 3 floors. The total area of the building is 7,848 square metres. The building houses a Junior and Senior High School with a total of more than 400 pupils and 40 staff.

No evidence of other perpetrators or accomplices was found during the emergency evacuation and the check.

The school building was cordoned off for the investigation until 10 November 2007.

4. STARTING THE INVESTIGATION

Having received the emergency call the Keski-Uusimaa Police Department started criminal investigation by calling the crime scene investigators to the scene and by starting the questionings and interviews of the evacuated pupils and staff.

The Police Command of the South Finland Province ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to take responsibility for the investigation and information at 01:06 p.m. At the scene the police operation and the information was in charge of the Keski-Uusimaa Police Department.

4.1. First investigation measures at the scene

The crime scene investigation was started after 03:30 p.m., as the school building had been checked and found to be safe. The external examinations and identification of the victims were started.

Eight victims were found at the scene, each of them killed by injuries resulting from shooting. The bullets had hit the victims in the head or upper body area and according to forensic pathologists all of them had died immediately. Five of the victims were male and three female. It was estimated on the basis of their appearance that except one female adult, all the others were pupils of the school. The victims were taken to the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Helsinki for the final identification, forensic analyses and autopsies.

5. OTHER MEDICAL RESPONSE

The Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS) was prepared to give first medical response at Helsinki and neighbouring area hospitals. Pekka-Eric Auvinen was taken to Töölö Hospital, where he died late at night on 7 November 2007. One of the pupils having been hit by a bullet that had penetrated a door and his shoe was taken to Hyvinkää Hospital. Twelve other persons got other injuries, such as foot sprains and wounds as they were evacuated through the school windows.

During the afternoon of 7 November 2007, Töölö hospital gave information on the number of victims, which varied repeatedly and caused a slight confusion for the investigation and the media. The police are the authority who gives information relating to the investigation of the cause of death; in this case the victims were taken straight from the scene to the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Helsinki.

6. VICTIM EXAMINATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Five forensic pathologists from the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Helsinki participated in the examination of the victims at the scene. They carried out the preliminary examination of the victims and wounds and estimated the time of death.

The number and sex of the victims was confirmed at the scene at 05:40 p.m. and communicated at a press conference by the police at 06:00 p.m. The victims were taken to the Department of Forensic Medicine after the preliminary examinations at 08:00 p.m. Examinations and identifications continued until early morning 8 November 2007.

The police took the sad news to the next-of-kin between late 7 and early 8 November 2007. The next-of-kin were given an opportunity to see the deceased at the Department of Forensic Medicine.

All the victims were identified on the basis of dental records. Depending on the shooting injuries and number of shots the forensic autopsies took from 2 to 12 hours.

7. INVESTIGATION TEAM AND INVESTIGATION

The investigation team consisted of police officers from the National Bureau of Investigation and the Police Departments of Keski-Uusimaa, Helsinki, Vantaa, Espoo and Hyvinkää. Requests for assistance were made to several foreign authorities. Expert examinations and opinions were requested and received from the Crime Laboratorium and Criminal Intelligence Division of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Helsinki.

He fired the first shot at 11:42 killing the first victim inside the school building. He shot the last of the eight victims — and the only one outside the building — at 11:57.

At 1:54 p.m. Pekka-Eric Auvinen was found unconscious in a toilet, having shot himself in the temple.

7.2. The weapon used by Pekka-Eric Auvinen

One part of Auvinen's plan was to get himself a gun. For obtaining it he joined the Helsinki Shooting Club in Albertinkatu in August 2007 and received a certificate of the membership.

Auvinen applied for a licence to purchase and possess a firearm and got a temporary firearms licence at Keski-Uusimaa Police Station on 19 October 2007. The licence was granted for a small calibre handgun for target shooting. He had applied for a licence for a bigger gun, but it was rejected as the gun was considered unsuitable for the purpose of use.

Auvinen bought a Sig Sauer Mosquito pistol and 500 cartridges on 2 November 2007 at a gun dealer in Jokela.

7.3. Search of premises in Pekka-Eric Auvinen's home

The house of the Auvinen family was searched. His computer and paper diary were seized.

According to the diary entries Auvinen had started to plan the school shooting in March 2007 and given it the name 'Main Strike'. The diary entries display the will and the plans of the perpetrator and their realisation as well as the possibility that the perpetrator himself could die in the incident. No traces were found in the investigation that an outsider would have read the diary.

7.4. Investigation of the computer of Pekka-Eric Auvinen

A separate examination record was compiled of the examination of Pekka-Eric Auvinen's computer and the data included. The examinations established the contents of the latest files in the computer and the date and time they were created, edited or uploaded on the Internet. At least a part of Auvinen's e-mail messages were retrieved.

The investigation established that Pekka-Eric Auvinen created most of the material relating to the Jokela School Shooting between 5 and 7 November 2007.

On 7 November 2007 between 11:13 and 11:23, Auvinen uploaded from his personal PC to the Internet at least the following files: "Pekka-Eric Auvinen & Jokela High Schol Massacre.zip and "Attack information.doc, Jokelan lukio.png". He also edited the message to his family.

No evidence was found in the investigation to support allegations that one of these mail contacts could have known about his plans or would have participated in them as an inciter, abettor or accomplice or in any other status.

7.5. Telecommunications monitoring

The District Court granted an authorisation to obtain the itemised billing data of Pekka-Eric Auvinen's mobile phone. There were just a few phone calls or messages, most of which were between the family members.

7.6. Personality of Pekka-Eric Auvinen

The investigation also tried to establish the reasons or motives behind the incident. Auvinen's family, school mates, teachers and Internet contacts were interviewed. Further information was sought from the school nurse and other medical staff. A psychologist's expert opinion was requested on the behaviour and personality of Auvinen.

Pekka-Eric Auvinen was an average student prepared to take his matriculation exams in the spring of 2008. He was considered to be fairly shy and quiet and some pupils thought he was introverted. He did not have a large acquaintanceship. Some people thought he stuck out of the age mates because of his appearance and clothes. He had also been bullied at school, in which both the school and his parents had intervened.

Auvinen had politically strong and changing, often extremist opinions and his writings about them were well noticed in history and social studies classes at school.

Auvinen liked to keep to himself and spent a lot of time by the computer and on the Internet. With his mother he also had some discussions on social/political topics. Auvinen suffered from slight panic disorder and performance anxiety, for which he had a prescription. He was not on regular medication. According to some people who knew Auvinen, he did not behave in a deviant way, however.

Allegations of self-destructive behaviour were found in his operation plan, where he mentioned the possibility of death. He had also left a kind of a suicide note to his parents on 7 November 2007. Pekka-Eric Auvinen had no criminal background.

8. CRIME SCENE EXAMINATION

The crime scene examination was started at 08:00 p.m., immediately after the preliminary examination and external checks of the victims were finished. The intention was to establish the number of shots by the number of cases and bullet holes found, to collect the unused cartridges and to identify the liquid that Auvinen had used trying to set the I floor corridor on fire.

In the magazine of the Sig Sauer found beside Auvinen, there were one cartridge case and three cartridges. Auvinen himself died from the shot he had fired in his right temple.

A separate examination record was made on the crime scene examination.

9. PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION RECORDS AND CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

Two different pre-trial investigation records were made - one of which is public and the other which is available for the parties of the case only. The public version contains the interviews. The identification, address and telephone data were deleted from the interviews, names excepted.

The parties of the case only version includes confidential information relating to the police tactics, information subject to the protection of privacy and health, information and documents that might defame the memory of a victim and material relating to the investigation of the cause of death.

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